also been signed with Ghana but it is yet to be rectified. Agreements with Algeria, Bangladesh, Iran, Guinea and Senegal are under process. It is too early to assess the benefits of these agreements.

Setting up of Leather Industry Parks

†297. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed setting up of five leather industry parks in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the cities where Leather Industry Parks will be set up;

(c) what schemes have been formulated by Government for providing employment to maximum people in these parks; and

(d) what is the maximum number of persons likely to get employment in these parks and what steps have been taken by Government for simplification of export of leather products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Government proposes to set up three leather industry parks in the country.

(b) One each at Irungattukotai and Chennai in Tamil Nadu and one at Kolkata in West Bengal.

(c) The basic objective of the scheme is to provide the basic and essential common infrastructure like design studios, common facility centre, display-cum-warehousing facilities for housing large manufacturing units which would *inter aila* provide employment to large number of people.

(d) Around 7000 people are likely to get employment in these parks. The entire leather sector is now de-licensed and de-reserved. Import-export procedures have been simplified facilitating quicker customs clearance.

Plethora of regulations for foreign entrepreneurs

298. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the World Bank's recent report mentioning about existence of plethora of Government regulations that foreign entrepreneurs have to cope with while doing business in India;

(b) if so, when the reforms being undertaken in this regard will fructify as we are even much behind the pace of such reforms done in China; and

(c) will time-bound reforms be done so that in foreseeable future, the tedious red-tape no longer adversely affects our business scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has been publishing for the last five years, a report titled "Doing Business" comparing countries in terms of ease of doing business on various parameters.

In "Doing Business 2008", 178 economies have been compared and India has been placed at 120th position. The report ranks the economies in ease of doing business based on studying ten parameters namely; Starting a business, Dealing with licenses, Employing workers, Registering property, Getting credit, Protecting investors, Paying taxes, Trading across borders, Enforcing contracts and Closing a Business.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) and (c) The Government of India has undertaken reform process on continuous basis to address these concerns. E-Governance, MCA-21, Investment Policy liberalization, Single Window Systems by State Governemnts, Taxation Reforms including online filing; large tax payers unit, single window for payment of income tax and corporate tax, ICE-Gate for online filing of custom and excise documents, Right to Information Act, 2005 and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Act, 2006 are some of the major steps to promote business environment in the country and to remove procedural bottlenecks and red-tapism in the way of investment and higher growth. As a result, the ranking for India has improved gradually from 138 in 2006 to 120 in 2008 as per World Bank's Doing Business Reports. The reforms process is ongoing and the Government is continuously endeavouring to provide greater ease of functioning to entrepreneurs and investors.

EOUs in the country

299. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State-wise Export Oriented Industrial Units (EOUs) working in the country as on date;

(b) the number of proposals received to establish export-oriented units during last three years and as on date and the number of proposals sanctioned; and

(c) the number of units provided with basic and other facilities to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The number of State-wise Export Oriented Units (EOUs) as on date is enclosed *(see* below). The number of proposals received and approved during last three years and as on date, as per readily available information is as under:—

Period	No of proposals received to establish export-oriented units	No. of proposals approved
2004-05	635	531
2005-06	619	527
2006-07	466	415
2007-08	236	184

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Number of State-wise Export Oriented Units (EOUs) working in the country

S.No.	States/Union Territories	No. of EOUs working as on 31.10.2007
1	2	3
1.	A & N Island	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	232
3.	Chandigarh	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	3
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20